

## 6 Belles take 1st place at history symposium

### Yvette Burton

Banner Editor

Six Bennett students recently took first place at a history symposium in Tallahassee at the Southern Conference for African American Studies Feb. 15-17.

Those taking the top honors in the student division for their presentation are Mariacorazon Hill, junior English major from Washington D.C.; Nicole Southern, junior English major from Pittsburgh;

Ana Annan, junior political science major from New York; Samantha Dow, junior political science major from New Jersey; Ursula Cobbs senior English major from New Jersey; and Alicia Hubbard, a senior English-Ed. major also from New Jersey.

The students were assigned to take an aspect of the Plessy vs. Ferguson and Brown vs. the Board of Education cases and apply it to the world today dealing with African-American communities or studies.

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# The BENNETT BANNER

The Newspaper Produced by the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College

VOL. XVIII NO. 8

February 23, 1996

Bennett College

Greensboro, NC 27401

**Banners reflect Bennett's past**  
As a part of Black History Month, various Bennett Banner issues including 1939, 1945, 1960 were placed on display in the Holgate library. These issues front pages featured historical events including a visit to the campus from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Photo by Tahja McVay



## Students urged to join community in Kmart protest

### Stacy Blackmon

Lab Reporter & Staff

Bennett students received an open invitation to go shopping and get arrested.

During the SGA's full body meeting on Feb. 20, local leaders urged students to join Kmart workers in their fight for parity.

Guest speaker, Rev. Nelson Johnson addressed a group of more than 30 people in the David D. Jones Student foyer to inform them of the protests against Kmart Distribution Center and encouraged the women to get involved.

"This is one of the most significant struggles occurring in the state, in the nation and it cannot ultimately be successful unless Bennett and A&T join," Johnson

said.

Along with the Rev. Johnson, County Commissioner candidate, Ed Whitfield stressed the importance of Bennett students involvement.

"Bennett students are a very important part of this community," Whitfield said. "Bennett is a place for a good education, but you must remember those who are struggling and pull together for a real people's movement."

Johnson said the controversy began when workers discovered they were being paid less than their counterparts at other distribution centers. Then, claims of race discrimination, and sexual harassment arose. Workers sought the help of a union and ultimately the help of the community.

Among the first to offer support was the Pulpit Forum, which is comprised of 85 ministers. Johnson, who is a member of the group, said they were stepping up to do the right thing for the workers and the community. They chose to be the front runners in order to call attention to the protest.

"We went out to Kmart to take a stand and make people ask why is it that these preachers are in jail and not in the pulpit," Johnson said.

Although he encouraged the students to go to the protests and get arrested, he admitted that these ministers were willing to risk being arrested because they were

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## Choir tours during spring break

### Paquita Herring

Banner Reporter

After an outstanding Christmas performance of Vavaldi's *Gloria* for the Christmas ACES program, the members of the Bennett College Choir are now preparing for their next task: A spring tour from March 2-10.

While the rest of the students are on spring break resting, the choir will be busy singing in a variety of cities throughout the country including Detroit, Chicago, Nashville, and cities in Ohio and Indiana.

Over the past few weeks they have been rehearsing music that will provide the audience with a diverse program.

The vocalists are practicing everything from well known classical pieces to popular jazz pieces.

"There will be something for everyone and once the audience has listened to the program," said choir director Karla Scott.

"I think that they will be able to sit back and appreciate our work."

Travel is not unusual for the singers. They have toured as far as Africa for the opening of Africa University.

The choir has also performed for President Bill Clinton.

"The Bennett College Choir is an elite group of ladies directed by a Diva and accompanied by 'the maestro' of music, Dr. David Pinnix," said Jori J. Johnson, a junior mass communications major from New Orleans, who has toured with the choir.

"This will certainly result in a fabulous tour."